



Town of Palm Beach United Way

44 Coconut Row, M201  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
561-655-1919

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## TOWN OF PALM BEACH UNITED WAY ESTABLISHES LA COUNTY WILDFIRES FUND WITH HELP OF TWO MATCHING GIFTS

For Immediate Release – Monday, January 13, 2025

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or [aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org](mailto:aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org)

In response to the destructive wildfires in Southern California, the Town of Palm Beach United Way has created a LA County Wildfires Fund to support residents and first responders impacted by the unprecedented blazes. Palm Beach residents **Susan and Dom Telesco** and **Sandy and George Garfunkel** have graciously offered a combined \$100,000 challenge gift to help kick start the fund. Each couple will match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

“The destruction caused by the fires is just unbelievable,” said **Susan and Dom Telesco**. “While watching the devastation, we couldn’t sit by without doing something, and I’m sure the rest of our community feels the same way. We hope this matching gift will encourage others to join us in supporting the LA community.”

Several major wildfires have devastated Los Angeles County, and despite progress, the biggest blazes – the Palisades and Eaton fires – continue to rage as firefighting teams struggle with containment. At least 24 people have died and more than 12,000 structures have been lost in the fires, which have burned about 60 square miles. More than 100,000 people are under evacuation orders, and tens of thousands are under evacuation warnings. Entire communities have been destroyed, with downed power lines, possible gas line issues, and toxic ash lingering for months. High wind and dry conditions continue to complicate response efforts.

“Our hearts break as we see images of the destruction caused by the fires,” said **Sandy and George Garfunkel**. “This touches us personally, as we have family that have lost homes. It’s unimaginable. Entire areas are just obliterated, and the effects of these fires will last for years. We hope others will join us in helping the residents of Southern California rebuild their lives and communities.”

The LA County Wildfires Fund will help provide food, water, medicine, medical supplies, hygiene kits, masks, firefighting equipment, financial assistance, and emergency grant funding to vetted organizations on the ground that are providing vital help to those who need it most. Initial funds will be used to support Americares, Global Empowerment Mission, Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, and World Central Kitchen. The Town of Palm Beach United Way will continue to identify additional partners on the ground to support the needs of LA residents.

To donate to the LA County Wildfires Fund, visit <https://www.palmbeachunitedway.org/la-county-wildfires-fund>. Checks will also be accepted. Please make checks payable to Town of Palm Beach United Way with “LA Fires” in the memo and mail to 44 Coconut Row, Suite M201, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Donations are tax deductible and 100% will benefit communities and residents in Southern California. For more information call 561-655-1919.

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## CLASS OF 2025

Missy Agnello  
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Sandra Bornstein  
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Atesh Chandra  
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Ginny Edlavitch  
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Lee Gordon  
Ann Heathwood  
Brian Hurley  
Paulette Koch  
Bill Mack  
David Mack  
Cara Coniglio McClure  
Pamela McIver  
Bill Meyer  
Trip Moore  
Hess Musallet  
Rita Nowak  
Michael Pucillo  
Farley Rentschler  
Stephanie Ribakoff  
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Christine Stiller  
John Tatoes  
Robbi Toll  
Wendy Topkis  
Adolfo Zaralegui

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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Diana Ecclestone  
Michele Kessler  
Sidney Kohl  
Paul Leone  
Margaret Luntz  
Anita Michaels  
Lesly Smith

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